

Military to limit drug test

WASHINGTON (AP) — Only in rare instances will U.S. forces be required to take drugs not approved by the Food and Drug Administration, the Clinton administration told Congress yesterday.

A Pentagon official said these could include exposure to lethal biological-chemical weapons for which there are no approved vaccines.

Members of a congressional panel suggested the authority could be abused. "I happen to believe such requests will not be rare," Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., chair of a House Government Reform subcommittee looking into Defense Department vaccination programs, said.

On Sept. 30, President Clinton signed an executive order setting forth the process under which a mandatory vaccination program could be administered under terms of a 1998 law.

Essentially, the defense secretary would have to request such a program. It would then have to be approved by the president.

"The United States faces the monumental challenge of establishing a credible medical defense against chemical and biological weapons in contexts of both military operations and civilian terrorist response," Dr. Sue Bailey, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said.

A question of popularity

U.S. Supreme Court considers funding of college groups

WASHINGTON (AP) — If yesterday's courtroom session was an indication, the Supreme Court is finding it hard to decide whether public universities and colleges across America can keep using money from mandatory student fees to finance controversial campus groups.

As the hour-long argument careened from one constitutional consideration to another, Justice Antonin Scalia pondered aloud: "I just wonder if universities are going to crumble if they can't do this."

Perhaps not, but the court's decision, expected by late June, could change the way public universities and colleges operate.

Susan Ullman, a Wisconsin assistant attorney general, urged against changing a long tradition. Creating a forum where many

voices can be heard is "a legitimate function for any university," she contended.

"I just wonder if universities are going to crumble if they can't do this."

— Justice Antonin Scalia U.S. Supreme Court

"Students have a First Amendment right not to speak," he said. "The university has a constitutional duty to respect the right of conscience of the students."

If the objecting students win, state-run schools would either have to stop using the fees to finance student groups or figure out some way to exempt some students.

The justices took turns peppering both lawyers with dozens of questions, and offered little insight into how they might vote.

Justice David H. Souter at one point noted most University of Wisconsin student groups finance themselves through dues and other kinds of fund-raising. He told Ullman that fact undercut "your argument ... you can't have this kind of speech in the university setting" without using student activity fees.

Jordan Lorence, a lawyer representing University of Wisconsin students who challenged their school's fee system, said his clients were forced to support groups they found objectionable.

Court denies producer's appeal

JASPER (AP) — An appeals court yesterday denied without comment a CBS producer's attempt to have two contempt charges against her overturned, meaning she must report to the Jasper County Jail to begin serving the indefinite sentence leveled against her by the judge trying the third dragging-death case.

It is a second victory for prosecutors in the capital-murder trial of Shawn Allen Berry, the third and final white defendant charged with dragging a black East Texas man to his death behind a pickup truck.

In a one-paragraph decision, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals refused to hear both of Mary Mapes'

contempt appeals and revoked a \$2,000 bond which they allowed while deciding whether to hear her case, Richard Wetzel, general counsel for the court, said.

State District Judge Joe Bob Golden twice has ordered Mapes jailed for refusing to comply with subpoenas that demand she hand over a transcript and videotape of the complete interview between Berry and anchor Dan Rather, portions of which aired on "60 Minutes II" Sept. 28.

"I hope that Ms. Mapes' attorneys would realize, as we have argued all along, that the law is in our favor on this matter," Brit Feather-

ston, an assistant U.S. attorney helping Jasper County prosecutors, said. "I would hope she would come forward and turn over the items that have been requested by the court."

The court's decision means Mapes has exhausted her appellate remedies in Texas and must now take her case to federal court.

Mapes' lead attorney, Charles "Chip" Babcock, did not return a phone call seeking comment.

The appeal bond kept Mapes out of jail Friday, the day she was due to report there after another appellate court ruled it had no jurisdiction to hear her appeal and lifted a temporary stay.



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Qualifications for editor in chief of The Battalion are:

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (unless fewer credits are required to graduate) during the term of office;
• Have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point ratio and at least a 2.00 grade point ratio in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester(s) (all summer course work is considered summer semester) during the term of office. In order for summer school grades to qualify as previous semester grades, a minimum of six hours must be taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s);
• Have completed JOUR 301 (Mass Communication, Law and Society), or equivalent;
• Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on The Battalion or comparable daily college newspaper, -OR- Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper, -OR- Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to Francia Cagle, Student Media Staff Assistant, in room 013D Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, 1999. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Media Board Meeting beginning at 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, 1999, in room 221F Reed McDonald.

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